

## **When is my child old enough to obtain employment?**

Children are often times eager to begin working once they enter their teenage years. Before your child turns sixteen, they are limited in what they can do for work and generally resort to baby-sitting, lawn maintenance, and paper routes. Once they are old enough to obtain a work permit, they can search for part-time employment wherein they can receive a steady income and begin contributing to the community. Parents should encourage their children to seek employment as long as it does not interfere with their role at home or their school work. Getting a job will teach your teenager financial responsibility and will provide them with an opportunity to manage their time effectively. Through employment, teenagers learn to take pride in their work accomplishments, which contributes to their overall self-confidence and self-esteem.

Once a teenager begins working, parents are encouraged to pay close attention to their ability to manage their time and money successfully. In the event that this causes an undue amount of stress, or an obvious deterioration of grades or other aspects of their life, parents need to aid their children in resolving these issues. It's suggested that teenagers start off working ten hours per week, limited to the weekends. If they are able to manage this well, the amount of time worked can be increased. Allowing your teenager to work can be a rewarding experience, but should be reconsidered in the event that it disrupts their routine.